I am Charles Xavier. I am a mutant. All my life, I have sought a way that mutants and humans might live together in peace and harmony. Hatred and fear between these two races destroyed the island-nation of Genosha and slaughtered 16 million people. From the ashes of that tragedy I hope to build a new and better world for all the Earth's children—before it's too late.

PREVIOUSLY

EXCALIBUR

Genosha was attacked by a band of looters, led by a modern-day pirate calling himself STRIPMINE. Together with his associate, APPRAISER, and a trio of renegade TROLLS (presumably Asgardian, but these days, one never knows), their goal was to loot the ruins of anything and everything of value—including the surviving mutants (or at least their genetic material)—to sell to the highest bidder. During the course of the engagement, their employer was revealed to be a doppelganger of one of the original X-Men, HENRY McCOY. Stealing from Hank's codename, this evil twin calls himself "DARK BEAST." But much to their surprise, since they had used specially-programmed microbial nannites to render any potential opposition powerless, they were defeated and captured.

Now, of course, the problem for Xavier and company remains, what to do with them?

Far more importantly, however, given the situation of the few surviving inhabitants of this once-populous and prosperous island-nation, is the question of simple survival.

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Stan Lee Presents EXCALIBUR

Saturday Night FEVER!

PART 1 OF 3

By Chris Claremont & Aaron Lopresti

HAMMER BAY, GENOSHA

WELL, CHARLES, NOW WHAT?

WE'RE HERE TO STAY, ERIK, WE'VE NO ONE TO DEPEND ON BUT OURSELVES.

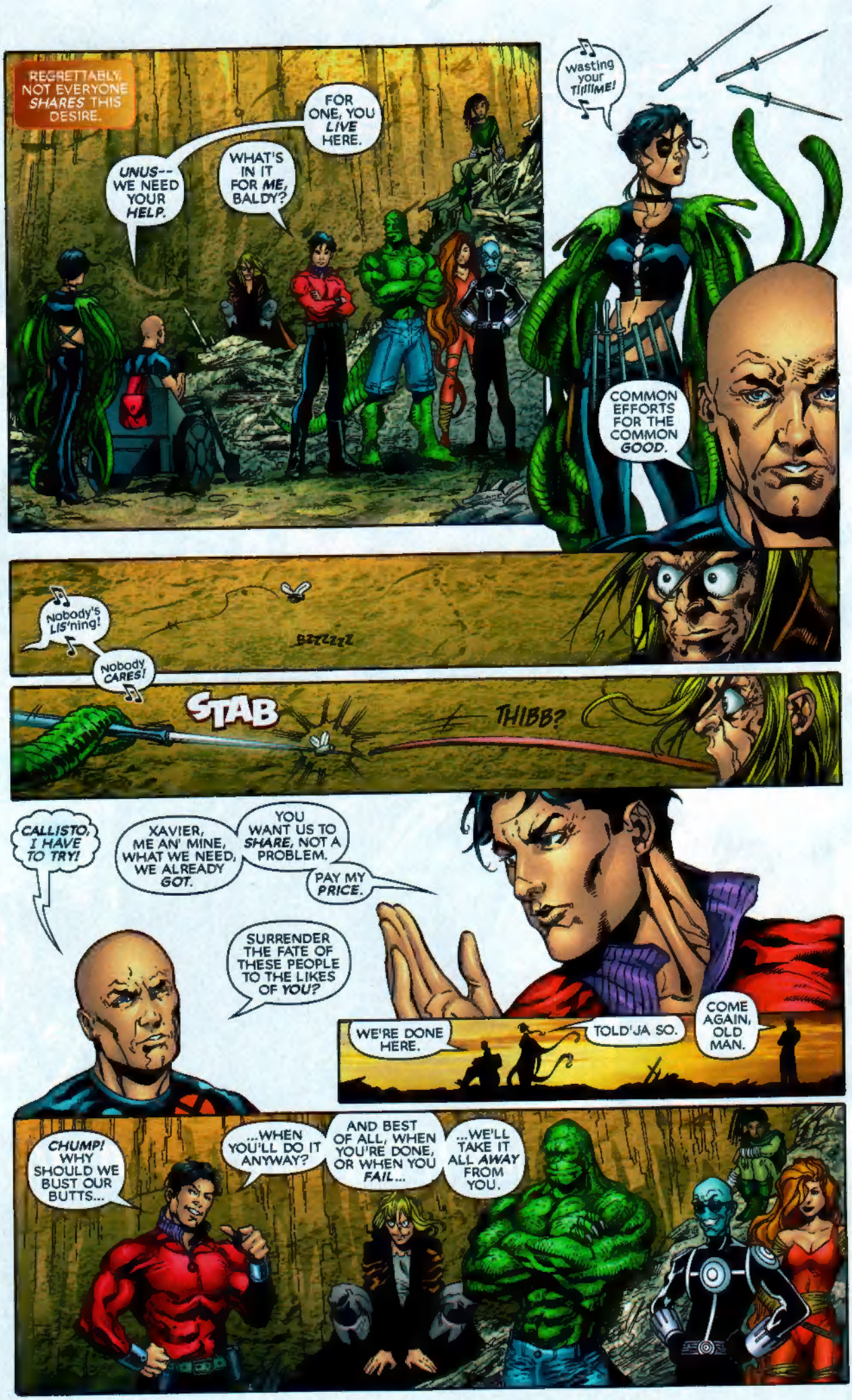
AND WE HAVE A *NATION* TO REBUILD.

LET'S GET TO *WORK*.

Greg Adams & Sean Parsons inkers
Tom Orzechowski letterer
Transparency Digital colorist
Sean Ryan asst editor
Stephanie Moore editor
Mike Marts supervising editor
Joe Quesada editor in chief
Dan Buckley publisher

WHAT'S HE DOING?!
GENOSHA WAS ALREADY DESTROYED. OVER 16 MILLION PEOPLE ANNIHILATED.
WHY BOTHER WITH WHAT REMAINS?
IT WAS ONLY THE MUTANT "HOMELAND" BECAUSE MAGNETO PROCLAIMED IT SO..
...AFTER THE UNITED NATIONS HAD BEEN BLACKMAILED INTO GIVING IT TO HIM.
FIRE INNA HOLE!
AFTER ALL, ONCE WE GIVE MUTANTS A PLACE TO LIVE...
...WE MAKE IT EASIER FOR OUR ENEMIES TO FIND US.
ALL YOURS, FREAKSHOW!
BUT IT ALSO GIVES US A HOME...
...AMIDST A WORLD WHERE EVEN THE MOST... ENLIGHTENED OF COUNTRIES SEE US COLLECTIVELY AS A THREAT.
THANKS SO MUCH!

IF WE LEAVE GENOSHA AS IT IS, WE SAY IN EFFECT THERE IS NO HOPE.
WE SAY WE ARE NOT A COMMON HUMANITY, THOSE WITH POWERS AND THOSE WITHOUT.
YOU KNOCK 'EM DOWN, PAL...
OUR LIVES MUST EVER BE DEFINED BY FEAR AND HATE.
...I EAT 'EM UP.
OUR FUTURE IS ONE WHERE WE MUST EITHER HIDE TO EXIST, OR CONQUER.
AND WHAT'S LEFT BEHIND...
...IS CLEAN, ARABLE LAND.
THE SURVIVORS ARE MAINLY CHILDREN.
WE HAVE TO SHOW THEM A BETTER WAY.
WHAT'S HAPPENING, WICKED?
MY GHOST-FRIENDS ARE SEARCHING THE RUINS FOR ANYTHING USEFUL.
I WISH THERE WAS MORE.
REMIND THEM PLEASE TO MARK ANY SIGNIFICANT PIECES OF FERROUS METAL...
...SO FREAK-SHOW DOESN'T EAT THEM.
WHY?
I HAVE PLANS.


REGRETTABLY, NOT EVERYONE SHARES THIS DESIRE.
UNUS-- WE NEED YOUR HELP.
WHAT'S IN IT FOR ME, BALDY?
FOR ONE, YOU LIVE HERE.
Wasting your TIIIIME!
COMMON EFFORTS FOR THE COMMON GOOD.
Nobody's LIS'ning!
Nobody CARES!
BZZLZZZ
STAB
THIBB?
CALLISTO, I HAVE TO TRY!
XAVIER, ME AN' MINE, WHAT WE NEED, WE ALREADY GOT.
YOU WANT US TO SHARE, NOT A PROBLEM.
PAY MY PRICE.
SURRENDER THE FATE OF THESE PEOPLE TO THE LIKES OF YOU?
WE'RE DONE HERE.
TOLD'JA SO.
COME AGAIN, OLD MAN.
CHUMP! WHY SHOULD WE BUST OUR BUTTS...
...WHEN YOU'LL DO IT ANYWAY?
AND BEST OF ALL, WHEN YOU'RE DONE, OR WHEN YOU FAIL...
...WE'LL TAKE IT ALL AWAY FROM YOU.

KARIMA SHAPANDAR.
LIKE THE NAME.
GENOSHA COMMUNITY JAIL
LOVE THE ACCENT.
IT'S HOW WE SPEAK ENGLISH IN INDIA.
MUSIC TO MY EARS.
SO TELL ME, HOW DID SUCH A SWEET GIRL GET INTO SUCH AN UNHOLY MESS?
HELPING A FRIEND. WHAT'S YOUR EXCUSE?
BAD GENES.
SO TELL ME, ARE YOU THE REAL McCOY?
OR SOME CHEAP IMITATION?
OUCH!
DO YOU KNOW THERE ARE 1143 WEBSITES DEVOTED TO THE BEAST?
INCLUDING THE NAUGHTY ONES?
ACCESSED THEM, DID YOU, WITH YOUR BUILT-IN SATELLITE MODEM?
STORED EVERY BIT OF DATA IN THE HARD DRIVE THAT REPLACED YOUR HUMAN BRAIN?
YET NEVER A MENTION-- ANYWHERE-- THAT THERE ARE TWO OF YOU.
YOU CHECKED THEM ALL?
I'M TRULY FLATTERED. IT MUST BE LOVE.

BUT THERE'S ONLY ONE BEAST.
AND IT ISN'T THAT "COWARDLY LION" POSEUR LIVING MY LIFE IN WESTCHESTER.
I REALLY SHOULDN'T BE HERE. THIS IS A HORRIBLE MISTAKE.
YOU ORGANIZED A TERRORIST ATTACK ON THIS ISLAND.
A MISUNDERSTANDING!
PLEASE--LET ME MAKE IT UP TO YOU. I HAVE ACCESS TO FOOD, AND MEDICINES.
IF WE COULD COME TO SOME... ARRANGEMENT...?
I'M STILL DISCOVERING MY CAPABILITIES.
THESE BLADES ARE AS SHARP AS THEY ARE LOVELY.
PERHAPS I'LL USE THEM TO PEEL THE FLESH FROM YOUR BONES-- UNTIL YOU TALK?
SAY NO MORE, YOU'VE WON MY HEART.
CAREFUL. I MIGHT TAKE SOUVENIRS.
A VERY NICE TRY, MY DEAR.
BUT YOU AND I BOTH KNOW YOU'RE NOT THAT KIND OF GIRL.
HEAVENS TO MURGETROID, I ASSURE YOU, I HAVE NOTHING TO HIDE.
IF YOU WANT TO PICK MY BRAIN WITHOUT ANY QUID PRO QUO...
...JUST HAVE XAVIER USE HIS TELEPATHY.
IF HE DARES.

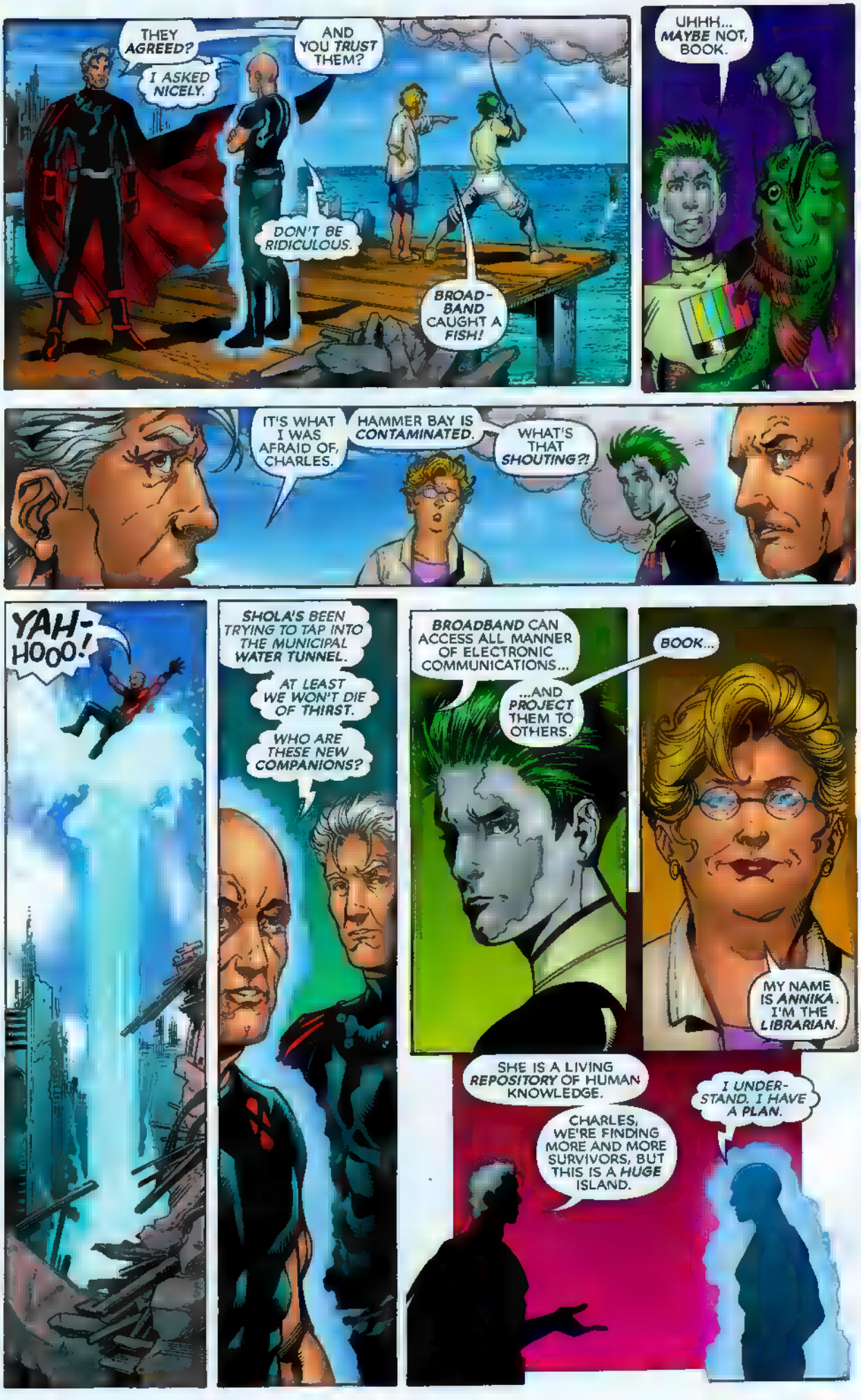
ONCE I HAVE MY DAY IN COURT--
--WHOOPS, MY BAD, I FORGOT THAT GENOSHA HAS NO COURTS.
THE LAW--AND JUSTICE--ARE WHAT CHARLES XAVIER SAYS THEY ARE.
KEEP YOUR DISTANCE, MONSTER!
YOU'RE RIGHT--I AM A MONSTER.
I WAS TRANSFORMED...TO KILL MUTANTS.
THEN WHY DON'T YOU?
BECAUSE I'M NOT A MURDERER.
I WAS--I AM--AN OFFICER OF THE LAW.
I WOULD THINK THAT YOU--BEING MAGISTRATES--MIGHT FEEL THE SAME.
YOU CLAIM GENOSHA IS YOUR COUNTRY, THAT YOU WERE WRONGLY OPPRESSED AND EVICTED BY THESE MUTANTS...
...FORGETTING, CONVENIENTLY, THAT FOR GENERATIONS YOU USED MUTANTS AS SLAVES.
IS THAT THE STATUS QUO YOU WISH TO RESTORE? OR DO YOU JUST WANT TO FINISH THE JOB AND EXTERMINATE THE PITIFULLY FEW SURVIVORS?
DOES IT MAKE YOU FEEL PROUD, EMBRACING THAT HERITAGE, LOOKING FORWARD TO SLAUGHTERING CHILDREN?
DON'T FEEL SO BAD, WE FACE THE SAME CHOICES IN MY OWN COUNTRY. TO SOME, KILLING MEANS NOTHING. THEY LIVE TO HATE.
BUT YOU HAVE THE CHANCE TO WALK ANOTHER ROAD, ONE THAT LEADS TO HONOR.
WHY NOT HELP US MAKE THIS A LAND WE CAN ALL SHARE?

BLAH BLAH BLAH BLAH BLAH BLAH BLAH!
BLEAH!
SLANG!
WE ARE WARRIORS!
WE DO NOT MAKE PEACE!
SAVE BY CONQUEST!
NOT TODAY, TROLL!
?
SKRAM!

THREE TROLLS, BUT ONLY ONE ATTACKS?
WHAT KIND OF GAME ARE WE PLAYING, hmnh?
MUSTN'T INTERFERE WITH MINE.
POKE!
OW!
THAT HURT!!
DIDST THOU TRULY BELIEVE THIS PATHETIC STRUCTURE COULD HOLD US?
IF YOU'RE REALLY TROLLS, NO PRISON ON EARTH SHOULD HOLD YOU.
THAT'S MY JOB.
BOOT!
BEST GET ANOTHER, WENCH!

KRUNK!
I DON'T THINK SO.
AND IT'S DETECTIVE-INSPECTOR "WENCH," IF YOU PLEASE.
SHOW SOME RESPECT.
ABSOLUTELY.
WHEN WE DANCE ON THY MISBEGOTTEN...
...GRAVE...
FLOOP!
?
FORGIVE MY INTERVENTION, KARIMA.
I DIDN'T WANT THE PRISONERS HURT.
WHAT'S THE MEANING OF THIS?
WHAT D'YOU EXPECT?
WE DON'T LIKE PRISONS. WE DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU PLAN FOR US.
CAN YOU BLAME US FOR TRYING TO ESCAPE?

ACTUALLY, STRIPMINE, NO.
I'VE COME TO TALK.
GENTLY, KARIMA.
THEY WON'T BREAK.
AND NEXT TIME, PERHAPS THEY WON'T CALL ME "WENCH."
FROM A SINGLE DROP OF BLOOD...
...SO MUCH CAN BE LEARNED.
GENOSHA IS UNDER GLOBAL INTERDICT.
WE GOT IN.
GOING THE OTHER WAY, THE SECURITY CORDON SHOOTS TO KILL.
YOU OFFERIN' A DEAL?
LIFE HERE HANGS BY A THREAD. AND THE WORLD WOULD BREATHE EASIER IF WE WERE TO FAIL.
THAT, I WILL NOT ALLOW.
FOOD, MEDICINE, KARI, REMEMBER WHAT I SAID?
JOIN US. WORK WITH US, ACCEPT MY PAROLE.
AND WHEN THE TIME COMES, I'LL HELP YOU RETURN HOME.
SUCH ALTRUISM, SIR, AND FAITH ARE TO BE COMMENDED.
'T'WOULD BE A PRIVILEGE TO SERVE.
STRIPMINE, CONSIDER THIS THE CHANCE TO EARN...
...WHAT WE WON'T PERMIT YOU TO STEAL.
ANYTHING'S BETTER THAN ROTTING IN THIS HOLE.
WE... ACCEPT.


THEY AGREED?
I ASKED NICELY.
AND YOU TRUST THEM?
DON'T BE RIDICULOUS.
BROAD-BAND CAUGHT A FISH!
UHHH... MAYBE NOT, BOOK.
IT'S WHAT I WAS AFRAID OF, CHARLES.
HAMMER BAY IS CONTAMINATED.
WHAT'S THAT SHOUTING?!
YAH-HOOO!
SHOLA'S BEEN TRYING TO TAP INTO THE MUNICIPAL WATER TUNNEL.
AT LEAST WE WON'T DIE OF THIRST.
WHO ARE THESE NEW COMPANIONS?
BROADBAND CAN ACCESS ALL MANNER OF ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATIONS...
...AND PROJECT THEM TO OTHERS.
BOOK...
MY NAME IS ANNIKA. I'M THE LIBRARIAN.
SHE IS A LIVING REPOSITORY OF HUMAN KNOWLEDGE.
CHARLES, WE'RE FINDING MORE AND MORE SURVIVORS, BUT THIS IS A HUGE ISLAND.
I UNDER-STAND. I HAVE A PLAN.

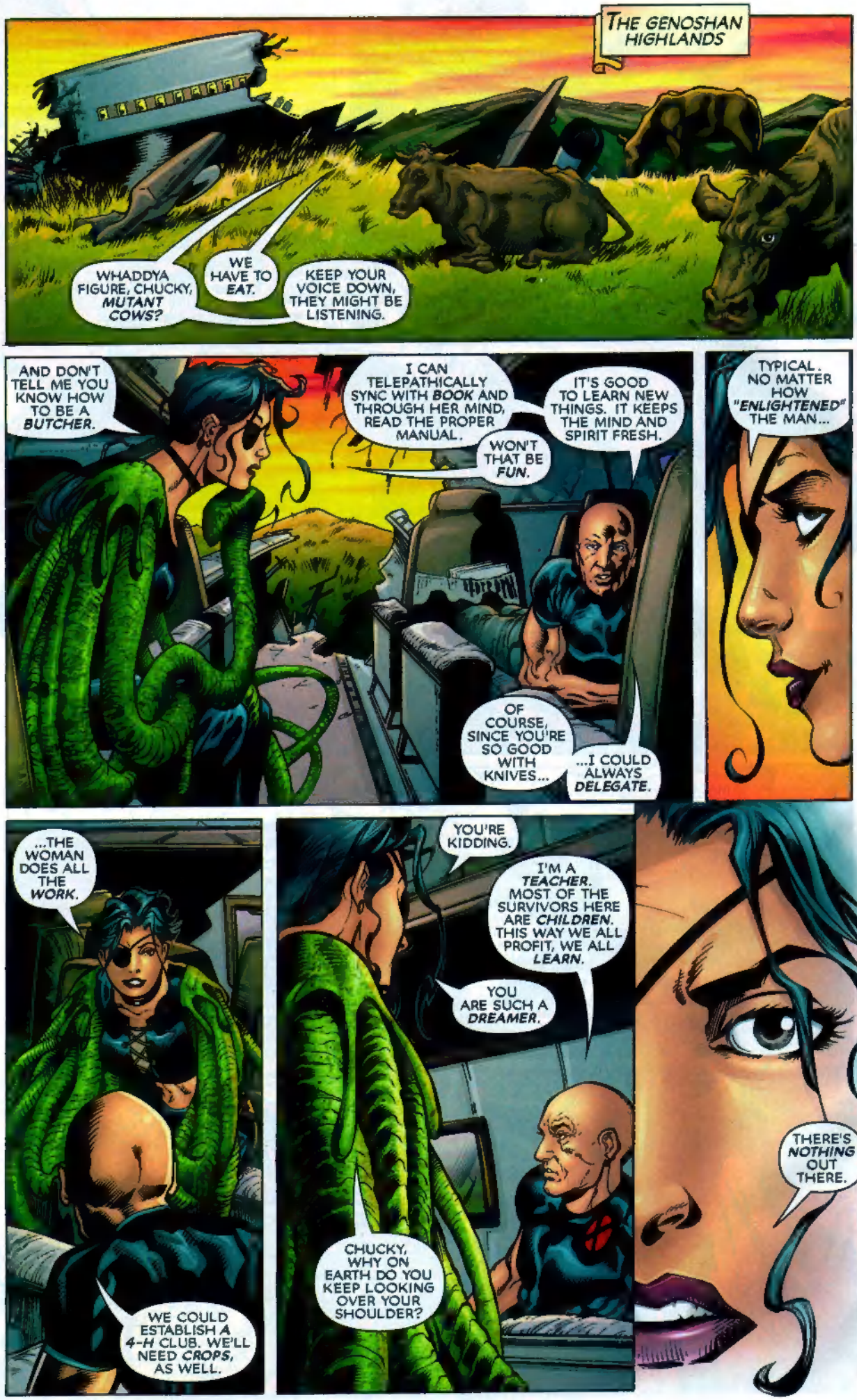
NOT IF IT INVOLVES THIS FRELLING CHAIR, YOU DON'T.
I'M SORRY, CHUCKY, IT'S OFFICIALLY DEAD.
CALLISTO, WE'LL FIND A WAY TO COPE.
EASY FOR YOU TO SAY.
CALLISTO--!
MY ACHIN' BACK IS ALL.
HERE'S THE SITUATION.
THE MAIN ATTACK--THE BULK OF THE DAMAGE AND FATALITIES--WAS CONCENTRATED ON HAMMER BAY.
PRACTICAL CONSIDERATIONS HAVE MANDATED OUR FOCUSING OUR EFFORTS IN THE CITY.
THE PROBLEM IS, WHILE MY TELEPATHY HAS TAGGED LIFESIGNS THROUGHOUT THE WHOLE ISLAND...
...THE PHYSICAL NATURE OF GENOSHA MAKES IT DIFFICULT FOR [redacted] TO FOCUS MY POWERS ENOUGH TO MAKE CONTACT.
THEY'LL HAVE TO BE FOUND [redacted]
ARE THOSE REALLY ALL THAT'S LEFT?
CHARLES--MY GOD--OUT OF A POPULACE OF OVER 16 MILLION--?!
IT'S ALMOST IMPOSSIBLE TO... COMPREHEND.
CASSANDRA NOVA'S SENTINELS WERE VERY...
...THOROUGH.
EVER ADMIT SHE WAS MY SISTER?

WHY YOU?
I'M THE ONLY ONE WHO CAN FIND THEM.
WHILE I'M GONE, YOU'RE IN CHARGE.
YOU TRUST ME?
OF COURSE NOT, I'M CONTROLLING YOUR MIND.
TOLD YOU HE'D SAY THAT.
Gasp!?!
YOU'RE KIDDING, RIGHT?
WOULD ANY OF YOU EVER KNOW?
I LIKED YOU BETTER WHEN YOU WERE A STIFF.
MORDANT WIT, THEY CALL IT.
NOPE. DON'T BELIEVE IT, NOT FROM YOU.
UNLESS YOU'RE INSANE, OR YOUR MIND'S BEEN TAKEN OVER AGAIN.
NEVER AGAIN, CALLISTO. NEVER AGAIN.
THEN WE'RE GOOD.
FOR THE LIKES OF US, MIGHT MAKING RIGHT COMES NATURALLY.
SAVE THE SPEECH.
YOU'RE PREACHING TO THE CHOIR, "KING ARTHUR."
HARDLY THAT.
UTHER PENDRAGON, PERHAPS. LAST VESTIGE OF THE OLD REGIME.
NAH! THAT'S WAY MORE MAGNETO.
"MERLYN," THEN. ON A QUEST FOR THE TRUE KING.
WORKS FOR ME.

WHAT'S ALL THIS?
BROADBAND'S TAPPING INTO THE INDIAN OCEAN SATELLITE, PIRATING THE LATEST HIT TV SERIES FROM THE STATES.
THEY SHOULD BE IN *BED*.
AND SO SHOULD *YOU*.
I DON'T *SLEEP* ANYMORE, NOT SINCE THE *ATTACK*.
SHOLA, THAT ISN'T *HEALTHY*.
YOU *THINK*?
WHENEVER I CLOSE MY EYES, I RELIVE ANOTHER DEATH. THIS IS *BETTER*.
WHO KNOWS, MAYBE SOMEDAY I'LL GET SO *TIRED*--OR SO *CRAZY*--I WON'T DREAM.
I UNDER-STAND.
YOU'RE NOT THE ONLY ONE *HAUNTED* BY HIS DREAMS.
ENJOYING THE *PROGRAM*?
BORED TO TEARS.
COME WITH ME, THEN. WE CAN BOTH MAKE OURSELVES *USEFUL*.

FREAKSHOW MADE AN EXCELLENT START.
I'LL SAY.
AND I HEAR HE HAS THE STOMACHACHE TO PROVE IT.
HE'S YOUNG AND STRONG, HE'LL RECOVER.
THIS IS WHY I ASKED HIM NOT TO METABOLIZE THE FERROUS METAL.
CAN YOU HANDLE THE LOAD?
NO PROB. I'M "YOUNG AN' STRONG," TOO.
I MEANT NO OFFENSE.
NONE TAKEN.
YOU SURE YOU KNOW WHAT YOU'RE DOING?
ACTUALLY, YES.
MY FIRST TRADE WAS BUILDING HOUSES.
MOSTLY, THEY STILL STAND.
WHY'D'JA QUIT?
CONQUERING THE WORLD PAY BETTER?
I LOST... MY DREAMS.
FOR GOD'S SAKE, LET ME SAVE MY DAUGHTER!
ANYA!
DADDEEEE!

SIR, I'M SORRY. I WAS OUT OF LINE.
QUITE UNDERSTANDABLE, MY BOY, I--
--WHAT'S THAT?!
WE INTERRUPT THIS BROADCAST FOR A SPECIAL REPORT.
WE GO LIVE TO NEW YORK CITY...
...WHERE AVENGERS MANSION HAS BEEN DESTROYED!
AT THIS TIME, NO ONE HAS CLAIMED RESPONSIBILITY, BUT THERE ARE REPORTS OF CASUALTIES AMONG EARTH'S MIGHTIEST HEROES...
...AND CONFIRMED DEATHS.
MAGNETO--?
MY CHILDREN ARE AVENGERS.
MY SON, PIETRO. HIS TWIN SISTER, WANDA.
QUICKSILVER AND THE SCARLET WITCH.
THEY'LL BE ALL RIGHT.
WHEN I THINK OF HOW I TREATED THEM--!
I WANTED NOTHING MORE THAN TO BE A LOVING HUSBAND AND A GOOD FATHER.
INSTEAD, I BECAME THAT WHICH I HATED MOST.
AND AFTER ALL THIS TIME, NO MATTER WHAT I DO, HOW HARD I TRY...
...THAT'S HOW PEOPLE CHOOSE TO SEE ME.
IT'S AS THOUGH I'M NOT ALLOWED TO CHANGE.


THE GENOSHAN HIGHLANDS
WHADDYA FIGURE, CHUCKY, MUTANT COWS?
WE HAVE TO EAT.
KEEP YOUR VOICE DOWN, THEY MIGHT BE LISTENING.
AND DON'T TELL ME YOU KNOW HOW TO BE A BUTCHER.
I CAN TELEPATHICALLY SYNC WITH BOOK AND THROUGH HER MIND, READ THE PROPER MANUAL.
IT'S GOOD TO LEARN NEW THINGS. IT KEEPS THE MIND AND SPIRIT FRESH.
WON'T THAT BE FUN.
OF COURSE, SINCE YOU'RE SO GOOD WITH KNIVES...
...I COULD ALWAYS DELEGATE.
TYPICAL. NO MATTER HOW "ENLIGHTENED" THE MAN...
...THE WOMAN DOES ALL THE WORK.
WE COULD ESTABLISH A 4-H CLUB. WE'LL NEED CROPS, AS WELL.
YOU'RE KIDDING.
I'M A TEACHER. MOST OF THE SURVIVORS HERE ARE CHILDREN. THIS WAY WE ALL PROFIT, WE ALL LEARN.
YOU ARE SUCH A DREAMER.
CHUCKY, WHY ON EARTH DO YOU KEEP LOOKING OVER YOUR SHOULDER?
THERE'S NOTHING OUT THERE.

OR IS THERE?
NOTHING THAT I CAN SENSE, CALLISTO, NO.
IT'S THIS ISLAND. MY TELEPATHY HAS NEVER BEEN MORE POWERFUL, YET RECEPTION HERE IS... INCONSISTENT.
THERE ARE DEAD ZONES.
COMPLAIN TO YOUR CELLULAR PROVIDER.
YOU WORRIED ABOUT MAGS? DON'T LIKE BEING OUT OF TOUCH?
OLD HABITS.
HE SHOULDN'T BE ALIVE, YOU KNOW.
LIKE YOU X-MEN CAN TALK.
MY POINT PRECISELY.
THE PHOENIX APPARENTLY REPRESENTS ONE OF THE PRIMAL TRANSCENDENTAL FORCES OF CREATION.
BY THE SAME TOKEN, MAGNETISM IS ONE OF THE FOUR FOUNDATION ELEMENTS OF THE PHYSICAL UNIVERSE.
I DOUBT EVEN MAGNETO HIMSELF KNOWS HIS LIMITS, OR HIS TRUE POTENTIAL.
I SUSPECT THERE'S LITERALLY NOTHING HE COULD NOT DO.
IF THAT DAY EVER COMES, CALLISTO, WE HAVE TO BE READY.
CHARLES-- YOU'RE BEST FRIENDS.
CAIN AND ABEL WERE BROTHERS.